

# AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Application for New Charter

## Request

BridgePrep Academy, Inc. (“Applicant”) submitted a new charter application package on June 19, 2019. The Technical Review Panel (“TRP”) evaluated the application package and determined that the revised application package meets the minimum scoring requirements set by the Board for the 2020-2021 application cycle.

The Applicant also attended a capacity interview conducted by the TRP. Upon consideration of the application package and results of the capacity interview, the TRP recommends that the revised application package for the Applicant be denied.

## Applicant Summary

Proposed School Name	Target Start Date	School Location	Grade Levels	School Calendar
BridgePrep Academy Buckeye	July 1, 2020	Buckeye	K-8	180 days

### Mission Statement

The mission of BridgePrep Academy Buckeye is to provide a challenging academic curriculum that encompasses a unique Extended Second Language Model and real-life learning experiences that will enable all students to achieve academic success through a technology-rich learning environment. The school will promote strong communication skills, a global perspective, and an appreciation for diversity in order to prepare students for post-secondary studies and 21<sup>st</sup> century careers.

### Target Population

*The following summary was excerpted from the Applicant’s Educational Plan A.2: Target Population narrative.*

The Applicant states, “We are proposing to establish a BridgePrep Academy in Buckeye. In the 2010 census, the Buckeye community was projected to grow rapidly through 2023 with the school-age population growing from 17,301 students to 22,075 students and the K-8 population growing from 13,519 to 17,428.” In addition, statistics provided by applicant indicate the population is 26% White, 7.2% Black/African American, 61.4% Hispanic/Latino, .2% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaskan native and 3% two or more races.

### Three Year Plan

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
<b>Grade Levels</b>	K-8	K-8	K-8
<b>Enrollment</b>	360	430	565

If approved, the Applicant’s overall enrollment cap for year four and beyond would be 750.

### Proposed Location (see Business Plan C.1: Facilities Acquisition):

The Applicant does not have a confirmed facility; however, the Applicant has secured the services of American Charter Development and Capital R Construction. The Applicant is narrowing its choice of potential construction sites within Buckeye, Arizona.

### Program of Instruction

*This summary is based on information submitted for the Applicant’s Educational Plan A.1: Educational Philosophy and A.3: Program of Instruction narratives.*

The Applicant states that “Success is based on the fundamental philosophy that students learn best when they are empowered and prepared to take responsibility for their own learning.” The Applicant proposes to adapt the curriculum currently used in Florida to align with the Arizona Academic Standards. Curriculum includes Journeys for K-5 ELA and Collections for 6-8 ELA, GoMath! in grades K-5 and Carnegie Learning in grades 6-8 math. For Science, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt will be used in K-5 and Elevate Science in 6-8. For K-8 Social Studies, the Applicant states “As BridgePrep will enroll students from other public schools, we will modify our social studies curriculum to align with the grade-level “storylines” and address the six elements of the “Inquiry Arc” defined in the Arizona History and Social Science Standards adopted October 22, 2018.” The Applicant also intends to provide its Extended Second Language Program in Spanish. The Gradual Release of Responsibility instructional approach will be used to ensure transfer of responsibility of the learning process from teacher to student.



Governance

Corporate and School Governing Body Members	Type
Louis LoFranco	Charter Organization
Ronald Marcelo	Charter Organization
Luis Necuze	Charter Organization
Yeneir Rodriguez-Padron	Charter Organization

See Charter Principal Resumes in Appendix B.

## TRP Recommendation and Scoring

The TRP assessed the application package against the evaluation criteria published in the New Charter Application Instructions. Approval is based on either receiving 95% or higher for each plan (Educational, Operational, and Business) and/or through showing capacity throughout the interview process. The following is a summary of the evaluation information in support of the recommendation by the TRP based on the revised application package and the capacity interview. A full explanation of the TRP’s recommendation is provided in Appendix A. Recommendation Report.

### Overall Scoring Results

	Preliminary TRP Scores	Revised TRP Scores
Any Falls Below the Expectations ratings?	Yes	No
Any section in which more than one evaluation area scored Approaches?	Yes	No

	Preliminary TRP Scores		Revised TRP Scores	
	Yes	Percent Meets	No	Percent Meets
Educational Plan Score ≥ 95% Meet standard?	No	76.50%	Yes	100%
Operational Plan Score ≥ 95% Meet standard?	No	63.41%	Yes	100%
Business Plan Score ≥ 95% Meet standard?	No	64.15%	Yes	96.23%

The TRP provided the Applicant with written technical assistance based on its review of the preliminary written application package and the revised written application package prior to the in-person capacity interview.

The Applicant’s capacity interview was conducted on October 23, 2019. After the in-person interview, the TRP’s recommendation is to deny the application package.

Details related to the capacity interview are provided in Appendix A. Recommendation Report.

## Applicant Background Summary

Additional data is provided in relation to the Applicant’s principals’ experience and qualifications, as an indicator of the Applicant’s ability to implement a charter or operate a charter school.

**Principal Name: Louis LoFranco**

Current Affiliation(s): Five years as Financial Advisor with Edward Jones

Past Affiliation(s) of Note:

- Five years as Crane Manager with NextEra Energy Resources

**Principal Name: Ronald Marcelo**

Current Affiliation(s): Principal of BridgePrep Academy of Hollywood Hills

Past Affiliation(s) of Note:



- Three years as Assistant Principal for Miami-Dade County Public Schools
- Four years as Curriculum Support and Instructional Supervisor for Miami Dade County Public Schools

**Principal Name: Luis Necuze**

Current Affiliation(s): Thirty-one years as President/Owner of Necuze Insurance Agency, Inc.; Board Chair of BridgePrep Academy of Miami-Dade Public Charter School; Board Member of BridgePrep Academy of Hollywood Hills Public Charter School

Past Affiliation(s) of Note: None

**Principal Name: Yeneir Rodriguez-Padron**

Current Affiliation(s): Nineteen year teacher for Miami Dade County Public Schools

Past Affiliation(s) of Note:

- One year teaching for Orange County Public Schools